

*"A Historic Past"*



*"A Bright Future"*

THE CITY OF DELAWARE CITY  
407 Clinton Street – P.O. Box 4159  
Delaware City, Delaware 19706  
Phone: 302-834-4573 Fax: 302-832-5545

**MINUTES  
REGULAR MEETING OF  
THE HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION  
CITY OF DELAWARE CITY  
Tuesday, June 7, 2022 at 7:00 p.m.  
Delaware City Community Center – 250 5<sup>th</sup> Street**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Commissioner Dilliplane called the regular meeting of the Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) to order at 7:13 p.m. Commissioners Wood and Keifer were also present, along with City Manager Baylor.

There was not a quorum present.

**ACTION UPON THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

No action was taken on the May 2022 and October 2021 minutes, since there was not a quorum.

**PRESENTATION BY DAVE ATHEY FOR THE LOCK RESTORATION**

Mr. Athey, who is the City Engineer, began his talk by referencing the June 2014 study by the Center for Historic Architecture and Design at the University of Delaware. There were three challenging and problematic things learned from this study:

- 1) The university researchers drained the lock, but leaks resulted in it refilling within a couple hours,
- 2) The muck in the lock below the water caused a researcher to sink to his thighs in the very unstable bottom,
- 3) There were also oily deposits found in the sediment. This oil is called “free product.”

(This information was outlined in a March 21, 2022 memo from Mr. Athey to Mayor & Council).

He also said it is important to know what the city’s “goals and objectives” are when it comes to restoring the lock. One idea he had was draining the lock and keeping it drained. City Manager Baylor added that if the lock was restored in a fashion to be “educational,” the city would receive more grant money.

Commissioner Dilliplane mentioned that some of the locks in Pennsylvania (on the Delaware River) were drained and filled. Also, she said, it might be beneficial to see what other towns have done with their historic locks.

Mr. Athey has been in touch with the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) and the Wetlands and Subaqueous Lands Section of DENRC about the lock’s potential restoration. He was not overly impressed with their guidance. Both offices basically said to keep them “apprised” and “we will go from there.”

As a first step, he recommends a “detailed water and sediment sampling plan” to collect and analyze both the water and sediment.

City Manager added that the “functionality” of the lock needs to be determined by an assessment. Also, the cost of this project needs to be considered. It could be anywhere from \$500,000 to \$1,000,000 or more.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

Commissioner Dilliplane made a motion to adjourn at 7:52p.m. *After adjournment, the commission members and Mr. Athey met at the lock to further discuss its restoration.*

Respectively submitted,

*Tina Pincus*

City Secretary